



# NEWS ALERT

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE 3 DECEMBER 2021



The fourth wave is here:  
maintain health precautions and get vaccinated!

### *HOT OFF THE PRESS:*



South Africa is entering its fourth wave, with a sustained increase in COVID-19 infections in seven provinces. As a result, unvaccinated South Africans have been advised to get vaccinated as a matter of urgency.



Based on existing data, scientists expect the current vaccines to remain protective against hospitalisation caused by the new variant, Omicron. Omicron has now been detected in 20 other countries.



Omicron has a cluster of mutations that are known to enhance transmissibility, and scientists expect this variant will be able to move through a community fast. A higher transmissibility means that the country will see a sharp increase in cases, which is already happening.



Epidemiologists warn that hospitals in the country are expected to take strain within the next 2-3 weeks, even if Omicron is not clinically worse than Delta. This will be due to the rapidity of transmission of the virus.



While the mutations in the Omicron variant may lead to reinfection amongst those who have already had COVID-19, the vaccinated are less likely to have severe COVID. Vaccination is still the best form of protection against COVID-19.



Other health precautions also remain important. Widespread wearing of masks has been shown to be particularly effective in protecting against the spread of the virus.

If you are 12 years or older, register and get vaccinated:  
[vaccine.enroll.gov.za](https://vaccine.enroll.gov.za)

WhatsApp REGISTER to: 0600 123 456

Free SMS: \*134\*832#

Call 0860 142 142 weekdays 8AM–8PM

In person at a vaccination site

Until everyone has been fully vaccinated, it is important to protect those around you by adhering strictly to COVID-19 safety protocols:



Wear a mask



Sanitise your hands regularly



Maintain social distancing

CareWorks Contact Centre: 0800 24 36 72

Weekdays: 8AM to 5PM and Weekends: 8AM to 1PM

WhatsApp: 082 735 4472